

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 181983

64
ORIGIN NASA-04

INFO OCT-01 SCI-06 ISO-00 ACDA-19 MC-02 EB-11 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 L-03 NSC-10 PM-07 XMB-07 AF-10 OPIC-12

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AF/C:JHDIGGS
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/SCI:EMAURER

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R 131600Z SEP 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TSPA, MA
SUBJ: RENEWAL OF NASA TRACKING STATION AGREEMENT
REF: A.) TANANARIVE 1151 B.) TANANARIVE 1190
C.) TANANARIVE 1211

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN VIEW FOREIGN MINISTER'S APPARENT
INCLINATION TO ESCALATE DEMANDS IN RETURN FOR RENEWAL
NASA TRACKING STATION AGREEMENT, DEPT AND NASA BELIEVE
NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD NOW BE SLOWED. CHANGE IN STRATEGY
WOULD BE DESIGNED TO CONVEY GENERAL IMPRESSION OF
RELAXATION AND CONFIDENCE THAT RENEWAL FORMALITIES WILL BE
MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY, EVEN IF SOME DELAY IN SETTLEMENT
OCCURS AS IN 1969, END SUMMARY

1. AS A MATTER OF TACTICS, DEPT WOULD PREFER THAT EMBASSY
DEFER FURTHER INITIATIVES REGARDING STATION RENEWAL AND
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PAGE 02 STATE 181983

THE SEPARATE ISSUE OF A COOPERATING AGENCY UNTIL AFTER
RATSIRAKA RETURNS FROM UNGA AS WELL AS CONCLUSION

OCTOBER ELECTIONS. RATSIRAKA HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED UTILIZE INITIAL DIALOGUE TO PLACE GOMR IN INCREASINGLY STRONGER BARGAINING POSITION TO DEMAND MORE THAN BASE OFFER OF EXCESS COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. FYI NASA HAS NEVER ENTERED INTO A QUID PRO QUO ARRANGEMENT IN OVER TWO DOZEN OVERSEAS STATION ARRANGEMENTS IN OVER 14 YEARS. END FYI.

2. QUESTION OF LAND RENT RAISED BY MOFA REQUIRES FURTHER CONSIDERATION. REVIEW OF 1963 AGREEMENT NEGOTIATING HISTORY REVEALS SPECIFIC ACTION BY GOMR TO INSERT PROVISION FOR LAND RENT, ALTHOUGH MADE CLEAR AT THE TIME IT DID NOT INTEND TO EXERCISE SUCH OPTION AS LONG AS AID BEING REQUESTED SIMULTANEOUSLY WAS FORTHCOMING. ALTHOUGH IN FINAL STAGE RENEWAL NEGOTIATION IT MAY BECOME NECESSARY ACCEDE TO FORMAL GOMR REQUEST FOR RENTAL PAYMENTS, BELIEVE BEST COURSE OF ACTION AT PRESENT IS TO APPEAR RELAXED AND TO AVOID IMPRESSION OF PRESSING FOR EARLY RENEWAL.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE AMBASSADOR'S REACTION TO FOREGOING.

RUSH

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